

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03166 191000Z

17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-10 /097 W

----- 113228

R 190904Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4298

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTIO, SY

SUBJ: ARAB BOYCOTT: NEW SYRIAN DECREE SEEN AS MORE LIBERAL

1. SUMMARY: NEW SARG DECREE STATES BOYCOTTED FIRMS "COULD BE
REMOVED" FROM BOYCOTT LIST "IF THEY ESTABLISH INDUSTRY IN ARAB
COUNTRY." SYRIAN OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE SECTORS VIEW THIS AS
LIBERALIZING STEP. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 03166 191000Z

2. SARG OFFICIAL GAZETTE NO. 31, AUG 6, 1975 PUBLISHED
DECISION 482 OF JULY 19, 1975 (INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION):
"THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE DECREES THE FOLLOWING:

ARTICLE I: ANY FOREIGN COMPANY OR INSTITUTION, WHEN IT IS ESTABLISHED THAT IT SOLD TO ISRAEL A PLANT CONTRIBUTING TO STRENGTHENING ITS ECONOMY OR WAR EFFORT, SHALL BE BOYCOTTED.

ARTICLE II: THE CONDITION OF COMPANIES ON WHICH THE PRINCIPLE SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE I SHALL BE APPLIED SHALL BE DISCUSSED AT BOYCOTT OFFICERS' CONFERENCE AND DECISION ON IT SHALL BE DECIDED IN LIGHT OF NATURE OF PLANT WHICH SAID COMPANY SOLD TO ISRAEL AND ROLE WHICH THIS PLANT PLAYS IN STRENGTHENING ISRAEL'S ECONOMY OR WAR EFFORT.

ARTICLE III: IF CONFERENCE DECIDES ON AN EMBARGO ON THE COMPANY, THAT WILL BE DONE WITHOUT NEED FOR A WARNING, CONSIDERING THAT THE WARNING BECOMES INEFFECTIVE AFTER THE VIOLATION HAS ACTUALLY OCCURRED.

ARTICLE IV: NAMES OF COMPANIES LISTED FOR REASON SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE I COULD BE REMOVED FROM LIST OF BOYCOTTED COMPANIES IF THEY ESTABLISH AN INDUSTRY IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES FOR THEIR OWN ACCOUNT OR BY PARTICIPATION WITH ARAB CAPITAL PROVIDED THEY DO NOT HAVE OTHER RELATIONS VIOLATING THE BOYCOTT PRINCIPLES.

ARTICLE V: THIS DECREE SHALL BE PUBLISHED AND SHALL GO INTO FORCE AS OF DATE OF ITS ISSUE."

3. SOME PRIVATE, WELL-INFORMED SYRIAN BUSINESSMEN AGREE WITH INTERPRETATION OF ARTICLE IV APPEARING IN BOYCOTT ARTICLE IN AUGUST 17)'ORIENT-LEJOUR (BEIRUT) -- THAT ARTICLE IV PROCEDURE TO BE REMOVED FROM BOYCOTT LIST IS NEW ELEMENT -- AND SEE THIS AS LIBERAL MOVE BY SARG.

4. DURING CALL DEALING WITH OTHER MATTERS ON DR. ABDULLAH AZMEH, SARG DEPUTY MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE, EMBOFF SHOWED HIM L'ORIENT ARTICLE AND AZMEH SAID INTERPRETATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 DAMASC 03166 191000Z

TION WAS CORRECT, THIS WAS NEW, MORE LIBERAL SARG POLICY. WHEN ASKED ABOUT SOMEWHAT CONFLICTING BOYCOTT STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER GENERAL MAHGOUB (MIDEAST MARKETS, 12/23/74) RE NEED FOR FIRM ALSO TO SEVER TIES WITH ISRAEL, AZMEH SAID MAHGOUB MAY RECOMMEND POLICIES TO ALL ARAB STATES, BUT THAT IN SYRIA SARG MAKES ITS OWN BOYCOTT RULES. AZMEH CONCLUDED ARTICLE IV THEREFORE STANDS AS ISSUED AND SEVERING TIES WITH ISRAEL IS NOT ABSOLUTE PRECONDITION TO BEING REMOVED

FROM BOYCOTT LIST SO LONG AS COMPANY MAKES SIMILAR OR EQUAL
COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT IN ARAB COUNTRY.
MURPHY

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